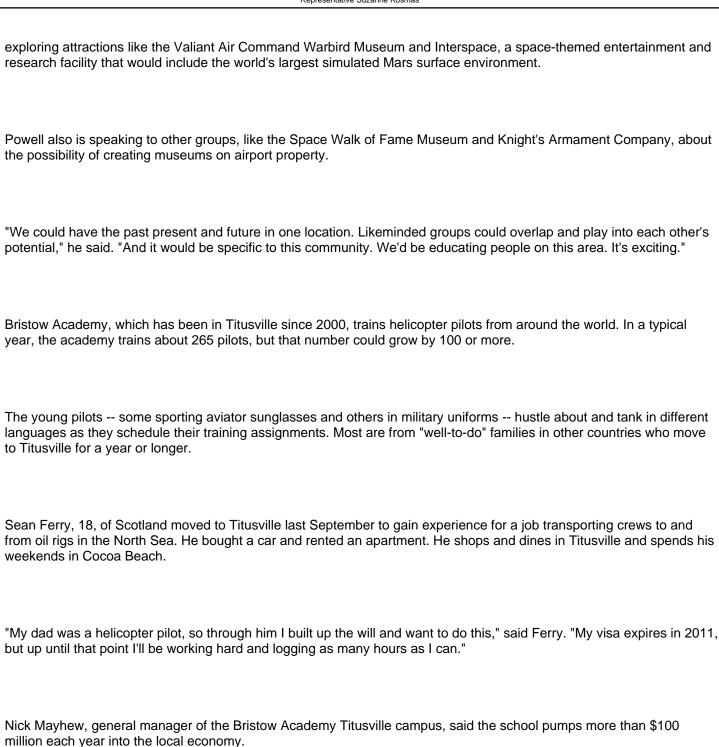
Titusville's TICO Airport looks to expand

Grant, loan would enable helicopter school to grow
BY AMANDA STRATFORD • FLORIDA TODAY • March 3, 2010
TITUSVILLE — Titusville – Cocoa (TICO) Airport officials expect to find out this month whether they will receive a \$2 million grant that would allow the world's largest civilian helicopter school to grow even larger.
The grant, coupled with an \$11 million loan from the school's parent company Bristow Group Inc, could lead to the largest expansion at the Space Coast Regional Airport in more than 10 years.
The project could create up to 97 additional staff positions at Bristow Academy.
"There is nothing more important at this moment in this area than the creation of jobs, and this will expand beyond just the jobs created specifically within Bristow," said Congresswoman Suzanne Kosmas, D-New Smyrna Beach, who worked with TICO officials to apply for the Economic Development Administration grant.
The plans for Bristow Academy are just the latest in a string of expansion announcements at the airport.
Last month, airport officials broke ground on a new administration building and a 20,000-square-foot display hangar to house Vietnam-era warplanes at the Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum.
The airport also recently purchased 56 acres from the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program that will be used for a runway expansion and other safety improvements. And TICO officials leased 75 acres to the space-themed entertainment group Space Center LLC.
"There are lots of opportunities and almost unlimited potential here," said TICO Executive Director Michael Powell about the 2,000 acres of airport property that still remains largely undeveloped.

Powell said he envisions the TICO airport property becoming a destination where tourists could spend a day or two

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"We are not re-circulating local dollars, we are bringing new money into Brevard and Florida," Mayhew said. "This organization has grown relatively quietly over the years, but we have really become a major player with our physical and

economic presence in the community."